

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns

Nicolas Slonimsky Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns: A Musician's Treasure Trove

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns is more than just a book; it's an essential resource for musicians, composers, and improvisers seeking to expand their musical vocabulary. This remarkable collection, compiled by the legendary musicologist and composer Nicolas Slonimsky, provides an exhaustive catalog of scales, modes, and melodic patterns that have influenced generations of artists across various genres. Whether you're a jazz player searching for new improvisational ideas or a classical composer exploring novel harmonic textures, Slonimsky's thesaurus unlocks a world of sonic possibilities.

The Origins and Impact of Nicolas Slonimsky's Work

Nicolas Slonimsky was a prolific figure in 20th-century music—an author, conductor, and linguist who had a deep fascination with the structures underpinning musical creativity. His "Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns," first published in 1947, emerged from his meticulous study of scales and sequences found throughout music history, from ancient folk traditions to modern experimental works.

What makes Slonimsky's thesaurus unique is its systematic approach. Instead of focusing solely on traditional Western scales like major or minor, the book explores exotic modes, symmetrical scales, synthetic collections, and complex patterns that challenge conventional tonality. This breadth has made it an invaluable tool for artists eager to push boundaries and discover fresh melodic and harmonic landscapes.

Why Musicians Turn to the Thesaurus

Many jazz legends, including John Coltrane and Frank Zappa, famously used Slonimsky's thesaurus to fuel their improvisations and compositions. The book's extensive catalog of patterns allows musicians to break free from routine playing by introducing novel scales such as the diminished scale, whole-tone scale, or the enigmatic double harmonic scale.

Additionally, the thesaurus is an excellent practice resource. By systematically working through the scales and patterns, players can improve technical facility and develop greater familiarity with unusual intervals and tonalities. It's this combination of theory and practical application that continues to endear the thesaurus to musicians worldwide.

Exploring the Content: What's Inside the Thesaurus?

At its core, the "Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns" is a compendium of thousands of scale

variations and melodic sequences arranged logically to facilitate discovery and study. The book is organized into chapters that cover different categories of scales and patterns, each with examples that musicians can transpose to any key.

Categories of Scales and Patterns

- **Traditional Scales:** Major, minor, pentatonic, and modal scales like Dorian, Phrygian, and Lydian.
- **Synthetic and Exotic Scales:** Scales created by combining intervals in novel ways, such as the octatonic (diminished) scale or the enigmatic scale.
- **Symmetrical Scales:** Patterns based on equal divisions of the octave, including whole-tone and augmented scales.
- **Chromatic and Microtonal Patterns:** Sequences that include chromatic passages or explore microtonal intervals, expanding beyond traditional Western tuning.
- **Melodic Patterns and Sequences:** Motivic ideas arranged in various intervallic configurations to inspire improvisation and composition.

Each pattern is presented in a way that encourages experimentation. Musicians are invited to transpose, invert, and modify the sequences to create their own unique expressions.

How to Use the Thesaurus in Practice

While the sheer volume of material in the thesaurus can seem overwhelming, a structured approach helps maximize its benefits:

1. **Select a Scale or Pattern:** Begin with a category that interests you or fits your current musical context.
2. **Practice Slowly:** Play the pattern slowly to internalize its intervals and fingerings.
3. **Transpose:** Move the scale to different keys to build versatility.
4. **Improvise:** Use the scale as a palette for improvisation, exploring melodic ideas and phrasing.
5. **Compose:** Incorporate patterns into your compositions to add unique textures and moods.

This methodical engagement not only improves technical skills but also fosters creativity by encouraging musicians to think beyond the familiar.

The Relevance of Slonimsky's Thesaurus in Modern Music

Decades after its first publication, the "Nicolas Slonimsky Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns" remains a cornerstone in music education and creative practice. Its influence extends across genres—from jazz and fusion to progressive rock and contemporary classical music.

Jazz and Improvisation

In jazz, where improvisation reigns supreme, Slonimsky's patterns offer a treasure chest of melodic material. Players use these scales to navigate complex chord changes or to create tension and release through unconventional tonalities. The thesaurus encourages stepping outside standard scales, which can lead to fresh improvisational voices and innovative solos.

Composition and Arranging

Composers appreciate the thesaurus for its wealth of tonal colors. By incorporating unusual scales and patterns, they can evoke specific atmospheres—mystical, eerie, or futuristic—that standard scales cannot achieve. Arrangers also benefit by using these scales to color harmonies and orchestrations in new ways.

Contemporary Music and Experimental Sounds

For musicians exploring avant-garde or experimental styles, the thesaurus offers a foundation for microtonal explorations and alternative tuning systems. It can serve as a springboard into sonic territories that challenge listeners' expectations and expand the boundaries of musical expression.

Tips for Getting the Most from the Thesaurus

To truly harness the power of Nicolas Slonimsky's thesaurus, consider these practical tips:

- **Integrate Gradually:** Avoid trying to learn too many patterns at once. Focus on mastering a few scales deeply before moving on.
- **Listen Actively:** Seek out recordings of musicians who have used Slonimsky's scales to hear how they sound in context.
- **Experiment Creatively:** Don't just play patterns mechanically; try altering rhythms, dynamics, and articulations to make the material your own.

- **Combine with Theory:** Understand the theoretical underpinnings of each scale to better apply them musically.
- **Use Technology:** Utilize music software or apps to slow down and loop patterns, making practice more effective.

Embracing these strategies can transform the thesaurus from a daunting reference book into a dynamic tool for artistic growth.

Nicolas Slonimsky's "Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns" stands as a testament to the endless possibilities within music. By diving into its vast array of scales and sequences, musicians unlock new avenues for expression and innovation, ensuring that Slonimsky's legacy continues to inspire creativity across generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Nicolas Slonimsky's Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns?

Nicolas Slonimsky's Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns is a comprehensive reference book that catalogs a vast array of musical scales, modes, and melodic patterns. It is widely used by composers, improvisers, and musicians to explore new melodic and harmonic ideas.

Why is Slonimsky's Thesaurus important for musicians and composers?

The Thesaurus provides an extensive collection of unconventional scales and melodic sequences that inspire creativity and innovation. It helps musicians break out of traditional tonal frameworks and discover unique sounds and patterns for composition and improvisation.

How has the Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns influenced modern music?

Many influential musicians, including jazz artists like John Coltrane and rock musicians like Frank Zappa, have cited Slonimsky's Thesaurus as a key source of inspiration. Its complex and exotic scales have contributed to the development of new musical styles and techniques.

Is the Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns suitable for beginners?

While the Thesaurus is incredibly valuable, it is generally more suitable for intermediate to advanced musicians due to its technical complexity and the theoretical knowledge required to understand and apply the patterns effectively.

Where can I find Nicolas Slonimsky's Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns?

The Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns is available for purchase online through retailers like Amazon, music bookstores, and sometimes in digital format. Libraries and educational institutions with music collections may also have copies.

Additional Resources

Nicolas Slonimsky Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns: A Deep Dive into a Musician's Treasure Trove

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns stands as one of the most innovative and enduring works in the realm of musical theory and composition. First published in 1947, this seminal book offers an exhaustive catalog of scales, modes, and melodic patterns that have fascinated musicians, composers, and theorists for decades. Its influence extends beyond classical music into jazz, contemporary composition, and improvisation, making it a pivotal reference for those seeking to expand their tonal vocabulary. The thesaurus is not merely a collection of scales; it is an analytical tool that unveils the intricate possibilities of melody and harmony through systematic organization.

Historical Context and Author Background

Nicolas Slonimsky was a Russian-born American musicologist, conductor, and composer whose expertise spanned a variety of musical domains. His background as a lexicographer and scholar profoundly influenced the meticulous structure of the thesaurus. At a time when Western music theory was predominantly modal and diatonic, Slonimsky's work broke new ground by exploring chromatic, symmetrical, and synthetic scales. The thesaurus emerged as a response to the need for fresh melodic material and theoretical frameworks during a period of rapid musical evolution in the 20th century.

Structure and Content Overview

The book is organized into a series of scales and melodic patterns arranged in ascending and descending forms, with each pattern transposed through all twelve keys. This methodical approach allows musicians to internalize patterns across the entire tonal spectrum. The scale selections range from conventional major and minor scales to obscure synthetic modes and microtonal collections.

Key Features of the Thesaurus

- **Comprehensive Scale Database:** Over 1,000 scales and patterns are cataloged, including well-known modes such as the Dorian and Lydian, alongside exotic scales like the Byzantine

and double harmonic.

- **Melodic Patterns:** Beyond scalar sequences, Slonimsky includes intricate melodic patterns that explore intervallic relationships and rhythmic variations, crucial for improvisers and composers.
- **Transpositional Consistency:** Every scale and pattern is transposed through all twelve chromatic keys, facilitating practical application and mastery.
- **Notation and Presentation:** The book's notation is clear and accessible, using standard Western musical notation, which aids in comprehension and performance.

Impact on Music Composition and Improvisation

The impact of the Nicolas Slonimsky Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns extends notably into jazz and contemporary classical music. Jazz musicians, in particular, have found the book invaluable for improvisation, as it offers alternative scalar frameworks that move beyond the traditional major/minor system. The exploration of symmetrical scales such as the diminished and whole-tone scales has helped artists break free from predictable melodic lines.

Use in Jazz Improvisation

Jazz innovators like John Coltrane and Frank Zappa reportedly drew inspiration from Slonimsky's work. The thesaurus provides a vast palette of tonal colors, enabling improvisers to craft solos with complex harmonic underpinnings. It encourages players to experiment with intervallic leaps, chromaticism, and unconventional modal structures, all of which are integral to progressive jazz styles.

Modern Classical Applications

Contemporary composers seeking to transcend traditional tonality also benefit from Slonimsky's exhaustive catalog. The book serves as a reference for constructing atonal or modal compositions and offers a blueprint for integrating non-Western scales into Western frameworks. Its analytical depth supports scholarly investigation into scale theory and melodic construction.

Comparisons with Other Scale Compendiums

When placed alongside other scale and pattern collections, such as George Russell's *Lydian Chromatic Concept* or the various modal books by jazz educators, Slonimsky's thesaurus distinguishes itself through sheer breadth and systematic presentation. While many works focus on practical applications or specific genres, the thesaurus serves both as a theoretical encyclopedia and a practical workbook.

- **Russell's Lydian Chromatic Concept:** Primarily a theoretical framework for jazz harmony, emphasizing the Lydian mode as a tonal center, whereas Slonimsky's work catalogs a wider variety of scalar possibilities.
- **Jazz Scale Books:** Often geared towards common jazz idioms and improvisation techniques, these books may not cover the same extensive range of exotic and synthetic scales found in Slonimsky's thesaurus.
- **Ethnomusicology Texts:** While focused on specific cultural scales, these texts rarely provide the exhaustive pattern transpositions and melodic variations that define Slonimsky's approach.

Pros and Cons of Using the Thesaurus

Like any specialized reference, the nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns presents both advantages and challenges for musicians.

Pros

- **Expansive Resource:** Offers an unparalleled variety of scales and patterns, encouraging creative exploration.
- **Systematic Design:** The transpositional format aids memorization and practical application.
- **Cross-Genre Utility:** Useful for composers, improvisers, and theorists across multiple musical styles.

Cons

- **Density and Complexity:** The book's exhaustive detail may overwhelm beginners or those unfamiliar with advanced music theory.
- **Lack of Contextual Guidance:** The thesaurus primarily presents patterns without extensive explanation on their musical application or emotional impact.
- **Notation-Only Format:** Absence of audio examples or modern digital support can limit accessibility for some users.

How to Integrate the Thesaurus into Practice

For musicians aiming to incorporate the nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns into their practice regimen, a methodical approach is advisable. Starting with familiar scales and gradually exploring unfamiliar modes can help build intuition. Transposing patterns across keys and experimenting with rhythmic variations can also deepen understanding.

Suggested Practice Routine

1. Select a scale or pattern from the thesaurus.
2. Play it ascending and descending in all twelve keys.
3. Create improvisations or compositions using the scale as a foundation.
4. Analyze the intervallic structure and how it affects harmonic possibilities.
5. Experiment with combining scales or creating hybrid patterns.

By engaging with the thesaurus in a structured manner, musicians can unlock new melodic ideas and broaden their tonal palette.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

More than seventy years after its initial publication, the nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns remains a vital resource. Its continued reprints and digital adaptations attest to its enduring appeal. In an era where musical boundaries are increasingly blurred, Slonimsky's exhaustive exploration of scales serves as a bridge between tradition and innovation, offering musicians tools to navigate complex harmonic landscapes.

Whether consulted by a jazz saxophonist seeking fresh improvisational ideas or a contemporary composer crafting avant-garde works, the thesaurus's comprehensive scope and analytical rigor provide inspiration and guidance. As music continues to evolve, the foundational concepts encapsulated in Slonimsky's work will likely maintain their significance in both academic and practical contexts.

[Nicolas Slonimsky Thesaurus Of Scales And Melodic Patterns](#)

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nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns Nicolas Slonimsky, 1975

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns for Guitar Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 2013-03-27 (Music Sales America). This book is a condensed, made-for-guitar version of Nicolas Slonimsky's publication Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns the book that musicians as diverse as John Coltrane and Frank Zappa used for ideas and inspiration. Musicians familiar with the original Thesaurus know that it contains a daunting amount of information crammed in its over 230 pages. But there is a definite symmetry and logic in these Slonimsky examples. What appear to be random patterns are actually mathematical combinations of some or all of the twelve notes in music. As the musician/student plays through the examples, the patterns will unfold and become more obvious.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Anthology of Musical Forms - Structure & Style (Expanded Edition) Leon Stein, 1999-11-27 Structure and Style, first published in 1962 and expanded in 1979, fills the need for new ways of analysis that put 20th-century music in perspective. It spans forms in use before 1600 through forms and techniques in use today. Anthology of Musical Forms provides musical examples of forms treated in Structure and Style. Some examples are analyzed throughout. Most are left for the student to analyze. These books reflect Leon Stein's impressive background as student, musician, and composer. Stein studied composition with Leo Sowerby, Frederick Stock (conductor of the Chicago Symphony) and orchestration with Eric DeLamarter, his assistant. He earned M. Mus and Ph.D degrees at DePaul University and was associated with its School of Music as director of the Graduate Division and chairman of the Department of Theory and Composition until his retirement in 1976. He has composed a wide variety of works, including compositions for orchestra, chamber combinations, two operas, and a violin concerto.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: John Coltrane Lewis Porter, 1999 John Coltrane was a key figure in jazz, a pioneer in world music, and an intensely emotional force. This biography presents interviews with Coltrane, photos, genealogical documents, and musical analysis that offers a fresh view of Coltrane's genius. It explores the events of Coltrane's life and offers an insightful look into his musical practices.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Harmony Book Elliott Carter, 2002 This comprehensive resource features more than 400 projections and colour illustrations augmented by MRI images for added detail to enhance the anatomy and positioning presentations.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Sourcebook for Research in Music Phillip Crabtree, Donald H. Foster, 1993 This bibliography of bibliographies lists and describes sources, from basic references to highly specialized materials. Valuable as a classroom text and as a research tool for scholars, librarians, performers, and teachers.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Imposing Harmonic Restrictions on Symmetrical Scales ,

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Lexicon of Geometric Patterns for Jazz Improvisation Masaya Yamaguchi, 2012-02-14 The book is divided into two hierarchically organized parts. In Part I, the various Melodic Shapes for creative writing and improvisation serve as the important aesthetic substance. In Part II, materials quoted from John Coltrane and others are integrated in a fashion convenient to improvisers who seek the technical proficiency of an instrumentalist. Admittedly, the beginning of Lexicon of Geometric Patterns for Jazz Improvisation was already revealed in Chapter IV of my other book Symmetrical Scales for Jazz Improvisation (Masaya Music, 2006). Over the course of a decade, however, I have developed my ideas into the more intelligible format shown in this book, so that even musicians who have difficulty conceiving of dissonant melodies may learn to create their own patterns to be used in improvisation. Dedicated to David Liebman and Dr. Lewis Porter, who have improved the quality of jazz education remarkably.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Patterns for Jazz: A Theory

Text for Jazz Composition and Improvisation Jerry Coker, James Casale, Gary Campbell, Jerry Greene, *Patterns for Jazz* stands as a monument among jazz educational materials. Condensed charts and pertinent explanations are conveniently inserted throughout the book to give greater clarity to the application of more than 400 patterns built on chords and scales -- from simple (major) to complex (lydian augmented scales).

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Ruth Crawford Seeger's Worlds Ray Allen, Ellie M. Hisama, 2007 Offers fresh perspectives on the life and pioneering musical activities of American composer and folk music activist Ruth Crawford Seeger (1901-53). This book presents a collection of studies that reveals how innovation and tradition intertwined in surprising ways to shape the cultural landscape of twentieth-century America.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: A Thing Or Two about Music Nicolas Slonimsky, 1972

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: The Hidden Symmetry of the 43 Octatonic Scales and 43 Tetrachords Dave Creamer, 2019-05-08 In *The Hidden Symmetry of 43 Octatonic Scales and 43 Tetrachords*, Creamer provides an extensive explanation and analysis of his system of octatonic (eight-note) harmonizations and melodic organization as well as a series of exercises, complete musical examples and original compositions utilizing the system. While the book includes the diminished scale and all of the eight-note bebop scales, Creamer goes well beyond their traditional use in a jazz context and introduces a vast new musical language where all eight notes are utilized as scale tones creating thousands of chord combinations, tonal colors and melodic possibilities that can be used by improvisers and composers in any musical context for generating new ideas and expanding traditional harmonic and melodic approaches. Guitarists will also benefit from the inherent symmetrical fingerings of the system (eight-notes-per-two-strings) as well as full tablature for all examples have been provided. Much more than a series of possible mathematical combinations, the book is presented as a complete system, and while a thorough theoretical framework is presented for contextual understanding, the music is first and foremost the focus of the work as articulated in the book's Foreword by Tuck Andress. Perhaps not since George Russell's book, *Lydian Chromatic Concept of Tonal Organization*, has a book had such tremendous potential for modern composers and musicians.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: *Cyclic Patterns in John Coltrane's Melodic Vocabulary as Influenced by Nicolas Slonimsky's Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns* Jeff Bair, 2003

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: A Dictionary of the American Avant-Gardes Richard Kostelanetz, 2019-03-04 For this American edition of his legendary arts dictionary of information and opinion, the distinguished critic and arts historian Richard Kostelanetz has selected from the fuller third edition his entries on North Americans, including Canadians, Mexicans, and resident immigrants. Typically, he provides intelligence unavailable anywhere else, no less in print than online, about a wealth of subjects and individuals. Focused upon what is truly innovative and excellent, Kostelanetz also ranges widely with insight and surprise, including appreciations of artistic athletes such as Muhammad Ali and the Harlem Globetrotters, and such collective creations as Las Vegas and his native New York City. Continuing the traditions of cheeky high-style Dictionaryists, honoring Ambrose Bierce and Nicolas Slonimsky (both with individual entries), Kostelanetz offers a reference book to be treasured not only in bits and chunks, but continuously as one of the ten books someone would take if they planned to be stranded on a desert isle.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: A Dictionary of the Avant-Gardes Richard Kostelanetz, 2018-11-15 Twenty-five years after the publication of *A Dictionary of the Avant-Gardes*, the distinguished critic and arts historian Richard Kostelanetz returns to his favorite subject for a third edition. Rewriting earlier entries, adding hundreds of new ones, Kostelanetz provides intelligence and information unavailable anywhere else, no less in print than online, about a wealth of subjects and individuals. Focused upon what is truly innovative and

excellent, he ranges widely with insight and surprise, including appreciations of artistic athletes such as Muhammad Ali, Johan Cruyff, and the Harlem Globetrotters and such collective creations as Las Vegas and his native New York City. Continuing the traditions of cheeky high-style Dictionaryists, honoring Samuel Johnson and Nicolas Slonimsky (both with individual entries), Kostelanetz offers a reference book to be enjoyed not only in bits and chunks, but continuously as one of the dozen books someone would take if they planned to be stranded on a desert isle.

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nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Mango Tree Musician Carlos Garnett, Jaime J. Ortiz, 2024-09-19 Saxophonist Carlos Garnett, despite being blind in his later years, was an integral part of Miles Davis' nonet. His pivotal roles extended beyond live performances to studio work during the On the Corner era in 1972. Though he was born in a community of laborers who worked for the Panama Canal Company, his talent and work ethic led him to perform with some of the world's most notable musicians. Garnett's upbringing had influences from various cultures, including Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados, which informed his later musical fusions. This autobiography traces Carlos Garnett's journey from his native, segregated town of Red Tank, now erased from modern maps. After establishing himself as a prominent musician in his homeland, Garnett left for Brooklyn, NY. There, he worked with Art Blakey, Freddie Hubbard, Charles Mingus, Andrew Hill, Mtume James, Norman Connors and of course, Miles Davis. Garnett's original albums for Muse Records showcased his musical fusions, highlighting his talents as a composer, arranger, and instrumentalist.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: The Music for "Victory at Sea" George Joseph Ferencz, 2023 This long-awaited study explores the creation of NBC-TV's landmark 1952-53 WWII documentary series, with particular attention to its evocative Rodgers-Bennett score. Victory at Sea, NBC-TV's innovative 1952-53 WWII documentary, was eventually broadcast to more than 100 million viewers worldwide. Its episodes chronicled the war's conflicts while highlighting the US Navy's contributions, NBC having sourced footage from the military, governments, and newsreel agencies of fourteen nations. Victory's special distinction was its music, with each episode's nonstop score recorded by the acclaimed NBC Symphony Orchestra. The music was credited to Richard Rodgers-then at the height of his fame-as composer, and Robert Russell Bennett as arranger and conductor. In fact, Rodgers composed twelve piano themes; Bennett developed these endlessly for orchestra and, in addition, composed many hours of the score outright. Part One chronicles Victory's gestation and production at NBC, its reception, the series' afterlife in syndication and home video, and the score's Gold Record sales success on RCA records. Part Two examines each episode in turn, focusing on how the Bennett-scored music pairs with screen action. Every transformation of the much-used Rodgers themes is cited, along with the episodes' musical inter-relationships. The hundreds of musical examples generously sample the score's 11 1/2 hours of music. NBC's Victory has been neglected by Richard Rodgers's biographers and by film historians. As the series celebrates its 70th anniversary, the Rodgers-Bennett score here finally receives recognition for its artistry and power.

nicolas slonimsky thesaurus of scales and melodic patterns: Living Space Michael E.

Veal, 2024-04-09 Living Space: John Coltrane, Miles Davis, and Free Jazz, from Analog to Digital fuses biography and style history in order to illuminate the music of two jazz icons, while drawing on the discourses of photography and digital architecture to fashion musical insights that may not be available through the traditional language of jazz analysis. The book follows the controversial trajectories of two jazz legends, emerging from the 1959 album Kind of Blue. Coltrane's odyssey through what became known as free jazz brought stylistic (r)evolution and chaos in equal measure. Davis's spearheading of jazz-rock fusion opened a door through which jazz's ongoing dialogue with the popular tradition could be regenerated, engaging both high and low ideas of creativity, community, and commerce. Includes 42 illustrations.

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